

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, the researcher reviews related literature covering (1) definition of vocabulary; (2) various of vocabulary; (3) the importance of learning vocabulary; (4) difficulties in learning vocabulary; and (5) solving the difficulties in learning vocabulary.

2.1 Definition of Vocabulary

Many experts have proposed some terms about vocabulary. According to Richards and Renandya (2002: 255), vocabulary is a basic aspect of language expertise and supply much of the basis for how learners speak, listen, read and write. Furthermore, they assert that vocabulary is the most important part that students must master because without mastering vocabulary they will overwhelm to move to the next step. Another definition is stated by Hatch and Brown (1995: 1). They said that vocabulary refers to a list or set of words for a particular language or a list or set of words that individual speakers of language might use. Thus, vocabulary does not mean only about words but also show the intelligence of speaker in processing words.

Vocabulary is important element for communication. Good vocabulary mastery also can make many people or especially learners have good understanding of themselves and all aspects of their life such as their society, history, economy, and so on. If people are shortage of vocabulary or only have little vocabulary, they will face trouble in their communication and achievement

because vocabulary will be needed not only in speaking but also in all aspects of communication. It is in line with Xu and Pan (2011) who point out that vocabulary is the basic material to put into the patterns, because there is no sentence, no essay, and even no language without vocabulary.

In addition, Schmitt (2000: 5), in his research put forward a list of various types of knowledge that must be conquered someone to know the words: the meaning of word, the written form of the word, the spoken form of the word, the grammatical behavior of the word, the collocations of the word, the register of the word, the association of the word, and the frequency of the word. Learning vocabulary means researching the whole aspects of vocabulary for they can use it correctly, by learning it they will know the type of word, the purpose of the word, and when the word must be used. Surely, this part is really important to learn, without learning all these things students will be confused when they try to express what they because of the limited words they mastered, at least they know how to use synonym and antonym in conversation.

Based on opinions above, vocabulary can be concluded as an important component of a language that is used to communicate in generally. In addition, vocabulary is also used to understand the meaning of word and the grammatical of the word.

2.2 Types of Vocabulary

Hiebert and Kamil (2005: 3), propose two kinds of vocabulary, productive and receptive vocabulary. Receptive vocabulary is set of words that an individual can use when writing or speaking. They are words that are well-known, common,

and often used. Furthermore, receptive vocabulary is vocabulary that often heard and frequently used in daily activity. The receptive vocabulary for every person is different, because it depends on their insight about vocabulary. For example, *put on your shoes, we are leaving soon*. It is a sentence which are combined by well-known vocabulary and simple sentence.

Productive vocabulary is set of words for which an individual can assign meanings when listening or reading. These are words that used rarely or did not familiar to our ears. Individuals may be able assign some sort of meaning to them, even though they may not know the full subtleties of the distinction. Typically, these are also words that individuals do not use spontaneously. However, when individuals encounter these words, they recognize them, even if imperfectly. For example, *Span-new learning fettle to me seems quite likely; but my no more yearning for you is deemed to parry*. It is a sentence that are combined by synonymous well-known vocabulary by most people. Hence, this sentence seems quite hard for students to translate it, because the structure of this sentence is usually used by academic journal writer. Therefore this sentence included in the productive vocabulary for students in high school.

2.3 The Importance of Learning Vocabulary

Vocabulary knowledge for students in eight grade are really necessary, because vocabulary is the foundation of every language, especially in English which is the main focus of the current research and without understanding vocabulary or few words that they knew will impact on their ability to communicate, especially with foreigner. Nation (2001) describes the relationship

between vocabulary knowledge and language use as complementary: knowledge of vocabulary enables language use and conversely, language use leads to an increase in vocabulary knowledge.

Guccirush (2010), there are some important aspects of learning vocabulary: increasing vocabulary, allowing the use of more descriptive words to better communicate thoughts. Furthermore, mastering vocabulary is necessary for successful in learning vocabulary process. Through an extensive vocabulary, students will be more confident to express themselves in speaking and writing.

In English learning, especially vocabulary learning, there are some factors that influence the students in mastering it. The factors are linguistic and nonlinguistic. The linguistic factors are usually related to natural difficulty of the language. It can be caused by imperfect knowledge about the English material. They cannot understand the relation between foreign language and mother tongue which have significant differences in styles and rules. The non-linguistics factors are divided into two factors; there are external factors and internal factors. External factors are related to curriculum, methods, classroom situation, family, and society. Meanwhile, the internal factors come from IQ, attention, motivation, interest, attitude, and etc.

The researcher pointed the fact that students usually find the difficulty to master English glibly. They usually consider reading, speaking, listening and writing activities are exhausting because they have no thought that English is important in this era or they have low motivation in learning English as their main L2. The main reason for such communication problems is the failure

understanding vocabulary. Other students are confronted with the problem of forgetting the words immediately after the teacher has elicited their purpose or after they have looked them in dictionary, and this is also a cause of the lack of vocabulary acquisition. The more words student learn, the more they memorize it. Class should be habituate themselves to conversation with English in everyday, so the student will know and remember many words. If the curiosity of students had built they will search word by word and find their meaning, so they can use the words that they have learn for their daily activity.

2.4 Difficulties in Learning Vocabulary

Nation (2001:1), stated that the vocabulary mastery is not a spontaneous process which is easy to be done. It means that in learning language it will take time and long process to achieve the goal of learning language. In simple way to explain it is learning by doing is a perfect method that every English classroom for student who was not mother tongue should implement. Because, this method is proved can be a good way for students in learning L2. Furthermore, students will understand better if they do it themselves, not just given theories by teacher everyday, too many theories will make them confuse and will bore them.

Learning vocabulary should be done in step by step and the first easiest thing that students in eight grade can be done is classifying words. For example teaching them synonyms and antonyms for each word and grouping them according to their original words. Teacher have to start from an easy way to build students' interest in speaking English. Through this method, of course, it will make teaching and learning vocabulary easier for students to face their difficulties in learning vocabulary.

Learning vocabulary seems to be one of the easiest things about learning a language, but it is also one of the hardest things to do. Especially when learner have reached a certain level. Learning vocabulary needs practice and time.

Many problems that are difficult to solve in teaching vocabulary. Thornbury (2002: 27-28) stated, general problems which are faced in teaching vocabulary. Factors that make some teaching vocabularies more difficult are:

2.4.1 Pronunciation

Research shows that words are difficult to pronounce are more difficult to learn. Many students are confusing to pronounce words even if teacher has taught them repeatedly, but tomorrow they will forget how to spell the words. In case, the spelling and written vocabulary of English is different.

2.4.2 Spelling

In English the sound and the spelling are not the same. It may also contribute to a word's difficulty. Even English spelling is fairly law-abiding, there are also some irregularities. Students must to learn extensive vocabulary to help them remember the English spelling well. There are some rules in spelling.

1. Double letter

a. Doubling consonant when adding suffixes

Example: Sit – sitting

2. Incorrect spelling

Example: CRY and CRAY

Some students often write the wrong spelling, but sometimes they also make other vocabulary in their misspellings. It builds up new sentences that are confusing and difficult to find their intended purpose. Spelling mistakes occur because students feel lazy to open a dictionary just to see how to spell words. even though there are many digital dictionaries that provide a way of saying each word.

2.4.3 Length and complexity

Long words do not seem to be more difficult to learn than short words. A sentence that has long words with complexity makes students confused, which is due to their unfamiliarity with these words. Surely it is a big problem if students cannot understand if they have to read books that are arranged with many sentences that can make them confused.

2.4.4 Parts of Speech

The parts of speech are very important for students when they are focused on learning languages, especially in the vocabulary aspect. learning aspect of parts of speech is very useful for them to be able to distinguish each word classification and this will affect their ability when writing sentences and the structure of their sentences.

2.5 Solving the Difficulty in Learning Vocabulary

2.5.1 Keep the teaching simple and clear

Do not give complicated explanation. The learners are teenagers who sit in the eight grade, so the teacher can not teaching material in a complicated way.

The teacher must find some methods to make the students easy to understand. Monotonous method such as memorizing just only make them in trouble to research. It must be in media teaching method to make students more happy in learning. Furthermore, it was not their L1, it took more time for them to understand the way to spell, to read, and to write in English. When they ask to repeat it, teacher has to explain it in an easy way to make student understand with the material.

2.5.2 Brainstorming before new activity

Brainstorming means recollecting vocabulary that students have learned in previous meeting. This method aim to strenghten students' knowledge before teacher take it to next level. Brainstorming is a good way for students to help them in solving their difficulty in learning vocabulary. Because in its application teacher will realize students' development about how far the students understand.

2.5.3 Use both oral and written presentation

Write it on the blackboard as well as explaining. Oral and written presentations will give student more knowledge and experience. Especially, to express their opinion in front of people using English. When they are accustom to appear in front of people they will have bravery and pride that provoke them to learn vocabulary more deeper, such as to know how to spell, use and pronounce words with correctly. Write down the words in black board that teacher have spoken will increase their knowledge because in the same time students will learn two ways which are pronounce and write the words. Based on their intellectuality

they will think about the different between the way to pronounce and the way to write the words. It will stimulate their curiosity to ask more about vocabulary.

2.5.4 Give most attention to words that are already partly known

Students in the 8 grade have known simple words such as drink, eat, watch etc. Teacher have to give more knowledge about words that they already known. For example the difference between present and past word, explain how can verb change when it from present to past.

2.5.5 Every single word is worth to learn

Tell students high-frequency words is important to note because it will definitely be useful for their future. Students must know that every word they have and will learn is important words. They will be stimulated that every word they have learned is appropriate for them. The hope is to increase their curiosity in learning vocabulary, so that teachers can teach them easily in many ways.

2.5.6 Teach student to open dictionaries

Dictionary is a main information in learning vocabulary as the bank of words. It is really important for student to open it and find insight from it. Dictionary can be absolutely beneficial for student to add their vocabulary knowledge from learning dictionary. At another time, teacher needs to teach student how to use other dictionaries.

2.5.7 *Deep processing of vocabulary items*

Deep processing means information that functions at a high cognitive and / or personal level. This method will connect the initial knowledge of students with new words that they have learned and will learn. Strengthening students' knowledge is also a function of this method. In addition, deep processing involves the use of words in contexts that are meaningful to students, grouping words according to characteristics and linking words with students' daily activities.

